

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187086
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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APPROVED BY S/S-O:DROBINSON

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R 250230Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187086

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 17576 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON
JIDDA JULY 24.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17576

EXDIS

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR EG SO ET

SUBJECT: SADAT COMMENTS ON AFRICAN SITUATION

1. IN MEETING WITH SADAT TODAY, I ASKED ABOUT HIS
RECENT ATTENDANCE AT OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. SADAT
SAID MEETING HAD BEEN USEFUL, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.
INSTEAD, HE IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED ON HIS CONCERN ABOUT
RECENT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

2. THE SITUATION IN AFRICA, SADAT ASSERTED WITH GREAT
EARNESTNESS, "IS VERY ALARMING FOR YOUR FRIENDS THERE".
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PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S POSITION IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT.
THE ETHIOPIANS ARE BOMBING SOMALI BORDER VILLAGES. AS
WE KNEW, SADAT IS SENDING GENERAL GAMASY TO SOMALIA TO
STUDY THE SITUATION. SOME EGYPTIAN MISSILE CREWS WILL
ALSO BE SENT.

3. AT THE OAU SUMMIT, SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORTED AFRICAN

LEADERS (UNNAMED) HAD "RAISED THEIR VOICES IN IMPERTINENT AND SELF-ASSURED MANNER". THEY HAD SOUGHT TO DOMINATE THE MODERATES. HAD MEETING NOT BEEN HELD IN KHARTOUM, A MODERATE STATE, THE RESULTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EVEN WORSE. EGYPT AND OTHER MODERATE STATES DID THEIR BEST TO TONE DOWN THE RESOLUTIONS.

4. SADAT THEN RECALLED THAT HE HAD MET WITH NYERERE IN KHARTOUM. THE LATTER HAD PASSED THROUGH ADDIS ENROUTE TO KHARTOUM AND HAD DISCUSSED THE ERITREAN PROBLEM WITH MENGISTU. NYERERE HAD TOLD MENGISTU, THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIETS THAT ERITREA IS NOT THE OGADEN. NEITHER THE SOVIETS NOR THE CUBANS SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED MILITARILY. THE CUBANS HAD IMMEDIATELY AGREED, BUT THE SOVIETS HAD DELAYED REPLYING. NYERERE HAD THEN BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED STATES, AFTER WHICH THE SOVIETS RESPONDED THAT THEY ALSO AGREE NO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ERITREA. NYERERE HAD PROPOSED TO MENGISTU A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, ONE INVOLVING AUTONOMY IN THE ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL ENTITY. MENGISTU HAD EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER THE EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE POSITIONS.

5. SADAT HAD AUTHORIZED NYERERE TO INFORM MENGISTU THAT GOE IS ALSO FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM. THE PARTIES CAN MEET IN CAIRO, DAR ES SALAAM
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OR ANY OTHER PLACE TO WORK THIS OUT. NYERERE SHOULD INFORM MENGISTU THAT EGYPT PLANS TO SEND SOME MISSILE CREWS TO ASSIST IN THE SOMALI AIR DEFENSE EFFORT. THEIR PURPOSE IS NOT TO INVADE ETHIOPIA, BUT TO DEFEND THE SOMALI VILLAGES THAT THE ETHIOPIANS ARE BOMBING.

6. SADAT RECALLED THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH SIAD THAT SOMALIA WOULD ASSERT NO CLAIM TO THE OGADEN OR KENYA, BUT SIAD MUST BE ALLOWED TO SAVE HIS FACE. SADAT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, AS SIAD HAD TOLD HIM, WE ARE NOW DELAYING SENDING THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM. "YOUR FRIENDS ARE SUFFERING", SADAT SAID. "YOU DO NOTHING AND THE SOVIETS PROVIDE THEIR FRIENDS WITH MASSIVE ARMS."

7. I DISPUTED HIS DESCRIPTION. ALLUDING TO SOMALIA, I ASSURED SADAT THAT WE WANT TO HELP SIAD AND HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO DO SO. IT BECOMES DIFFICULT FOR US, HOWEVER, WHEN WE DISCOVER THAT SIAD CONTINUES ACTIVELY TO AID THE OGADEN INSURGENTS. PERHAPS IF SIAD STOPPED THESE ACTIVITIES, WHICH RUN COUNTER TO THE COMMITMENTS THAT HE HAD MADE TO US, THE ETHIOPIAN BOMBING ATTACKS ON THE SOMALI BORDER VILLAGES WOULD

CEASE. AS SADAT DOUBTLESS KNEW, BOTH KENYA AND ETHIOPIA
CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SIAD'S INTENTIONS.

8. SADAT DISMISSED THIS ESTIMATE. SIAD, HE INSISTED,
SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO SAVE HIS FACE. OTHERWISE
HE -ILL BE OVERTHROWN. SIAD CANNOT IMMEDIATELY STOP
HIS ASSISTANCE TO THE OGUDEN INSURGENTS, WHO ARE
ETHNIC SOMALI KINSMEN. WERE HE TO DO SO, HE WOULD
BE OVERTHROWN. SIAD CAN GRADUALLY PHASE OUT HIS HELP
TO THE OGADEN INSURGENTS, BUT CANNOT DO SO AT ONCE.

9. SADAT AGAIN MADE A STRONG APPEAL THAT USG GO
THROUGH WITH ITS PROMISE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
SOMALIA. THROUGH SUCH ACTIVE ASSISTANCE, HE ARGUED,
WE CANWE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE SIAD TO REDUCE AND
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EVENТУALLY CEASE SOMALI SUPPORT FOR THE OGADEN INSUR-
GENTS. EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE187086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:DROBINSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780304-1123
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780722/aaaaasup.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9716e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1893366
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT COMMENTS ON AFRICAN SITUATION
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, EG, SO, ET, US, UR, (SADAT, ANWAR), (EILTS, HERMANN F)
To: OAU COLLECTIVE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9716e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014